\c) if not, what other steps Government are Inking to help film industry?

THE MIRISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCAHriNG (SHRI AJIT PANJA): <a) No, Sh,

<b) Does not arise.

(c) Of the two problems of the Indian film industiy referred to by the Hon'ble Member, the high taxes generally refer to entertainment tax which. is exclusively the concern of the State Governments. The Central Government had on its cart written to the State Governments in the past to consider reduction of entertainment tax buriten. As regards video piracy, the Parliament amended the Copyright Act, 1957 and Cinematograph Act, 1952 in 19, 14 to make the laws against Video piracj' more stringent. However, their impleri lentation is the responsibility of th:; State Governments who have been requested; sereal times to enforce the provisions of 1ee amended Acts vigorously.

Grant of freedom fighters pensions to those who were in self-exile

3144. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased io state;

(a) whetlcr Government have considered a demand of the Freedom fighters who were in self-exile in different States including the Union Territory of Pondicherry for the grant of pension;

(b) whetier it is a fact that in some-States including the Union Territory of Pondicherr}. the Freedom fighters have been treated as criminals and the cases had been lodged against them; and

(cl whether it is a fact that the Government am reviewing the policy of granting pension to the Freedom fighters; if so, what a«e its salient features?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRl CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and *(h)* Under the existing provisions of the Scheme, a person who suffered imprisonment! abscondence| internment' externment for a min'tnum period of six months in connection with the freedom struggle is considered eligible for Samman Pension irrespective of the Section of the Pena) Code under which he was charged.

The question of recognising the suffering of self-exile for this grant of Samman Pension un'der Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme has been COJSI-dered by the Government but >t has not been possible to accept the same

(c) No such proposal is under consideration.

Constitution of a viewers panel for Doordarshan programmes

3145. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANIC-[KER: Will the Minister of INFORMA TION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to con stitute a viewers panel and a news panel ! to get continuous feed back on Doordarshan programmes and news also; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) an'd (b) Doordarshan have already set up Viewers' and News Panels in 12 cities, namely: Delhi Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Lucknow, Srinagar, Juilandhar. Hyderabad, Nagpur, Cuttack, Jaipur and i Rajkot. The reports from these panels for a specific week in a month are received and analysed. The findings of these panels are taken into consideration and modification in the programme formats are made, where' necessary.

Grant of B-2 Status to Pondicherry

3146. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS' bo pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Pondicherry in the recent Assembly Session passed unanimously a resolution for the grant of B-2 status to Pondicherry;

(b) whether Government is aware of the fact that the population of the Union Territory of Pondicherry as per 1985 figures is above 6 lakhs-